Besides, both ONGC and OIL have been providing contributions to Chief Minister's Relief Fund from time to time for relief of flood affected people and other Socio-economic causes.

**Scholarships awarded by IOC**

1433. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. has been spending any amount for giving scholarships to the SC/ST students studying in degree classes in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the amount of scholarship given and the number of students benefited during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(c) whether the above scholarship has also been extended to SC/ ST students studying in technical and professional courses; and

(d) if so, the no. of SC/ST students studying in technical and professional courses who benefited during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), after selection on the basis of all-India merit, has been giving scholarships to SC/ST students.

(b) The amount of scholarship in 2001-02, and 2002-03 was at the rate of Rs. 1000/- per month. One student from Karnataka was awarded the scholarship during the year 2001-02 and 2002-03. From the academic year 2003-04, the scholarship amount has been revised to Rs. 2000/-per month for all the four years of Engineering & Medical Courses and two years for Business Administration/Management courses. Also with effect from academic year 2003-04, IOCL is giving scholarship to 10+ITI students at tne rate of Rs. 1000/- per month. 3 SC/ST students studying in technical and professional courses in Karnataka have been awarded scholarships during the academic year 2003-04.

(c) Yes, Sir. The scholarships are available to SC/ST students studying in Engineering, Medical, Business Administration as well as 10 + ITI students.

(d) The number of students benefited during the period from 2001 to 2004 on all India basis is as under: -

| Year | SC students | ST students |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 37 | 13 |
| 2002-03 | 37 | 13 |
| 2003-04 | 53 | 27 |

**India as global brand in international tourism**

1434. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to position India as a global brand in the international tourism market;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Tourism has earmarked Rs. 90 crore to increase visibility of India abroad both through advertising and opening new offices; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take for improvement and expansion of infrastructure like hotel accommodation, air seat capacity and ground transport system for international and domestic tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. The primary marketing objective of the Department is to position India as a global brand overseas and this objective is realized through a range of promotional activities undertaken by India tourism offices located in tourism generating markets overseas. A multi-pronged marketing campaign in the print and electronic media has also been launched by the Tourism Department in all key markets across the world under the brand of *'Incredible India'*.

(b) Rs. 90 crore have been earmarked for overseas promotion and publicity through India tourism offices overseas and for a centralized media campaign in the international print and electronic media.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Civil Aviation for taking appropriate measures to improve the air seat capacity on international sectors and with the Ministry of Railways for improving connectivity to important tourist destinations. Meetings are held on a regular basis between officials and at the level of Group of Ministers. To increase the accommodation in budget category hotels, the Ministry has introduced a scheme "Incentives to accommodation infrastructure